

COSTS/BENEFITS ANALYSIS OF MEMBERSHIP

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY RAPPAHANNOCK REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY



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BACKGROUND

On January 14, 1997, Fauquier County entered into an Agreement Establishing the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy (NVCJA). The purpose of this Agreement was to establish a facility to provide training for sworn law enforcement and correctional officers in accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Pursuant to this Agreement, Fauquier County is required to pay its proportionate share of operating expenses based upon the ratio of Fauquier County's sworn officer population to the total sworn officer population served by NVCJA. Fauquier County is also obligated to pay its proportionate share of debt service on any outstanding bonds. Currently, there is an outstanding bond with SunTrust Bank in the amount of \$2,895,000, which matures on June 01, 2008. Fauquier County's anticipated annual debt service on this bond is \$26,527. Total outstanding debt service for FY2005 thru FY2008 is approximately \$80,000.

Also pursuant to this Agreement, participating members are prohibited from withdrawing from membership while there are any bonds outstanding. The Agreement is subject to amendment, upon unanimous written consent of the governing bodies of all participating members.

Fauquier County's incumbent Sheriff, Charlie Ray Fox, Jr., has expressed a desire to withdraw from NVCJA and petition for membership in the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy (RRCJA). From 1978 to 1997, Fauquier County had been a previous member of RRCJA. Fauquier County's withdrawal from RRCJA and membership in NVCJA occurred during the term of former Sheriff Joseph Higgs, Jr.

Sheriff Fox's desire to withdraw from the NVCJA and obtain membership in RRCJA is based upon the following factors:

- a. Significant annual cost savings (subject to debt service pay-off);
- b. A more relevant training curriculum for Fauquier's sworn staff. Staff would have the opportunity to train in specific disciplines relative to their areas of employment, rather than pursue the extensive, all-inclusive, certification process required by NVCJA. This change would lead to a decrease in the time that staff is absent from local duty;

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- c. Elimination of the requirement to provide a full-time academy trainer from the Sheriff's existing staff, in accordance with the NVCJA Agreement; and
- d. NVCJA's intention to pursue a significant expansion of capital projects including: a firing range (total projected cost \$17,445,000), an Emergency Vehicle Operations Center (\$8,350,000), and expansion of the existing facility (\$350,000).

MEMBERSHIP

The respective memberships of RRCJA and NVCJA are as listed below:

Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy Membership

City of Fredericksburg Police Dept.	Town of Warrenton
City of Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office	Town of Warsaw
City of Winchester Sheriff's Office	Town of West Point
City of Winchester Police Dept.	Caroline County
Town of Ashland	Clarke County
Town of Berryville	Essex County
Town of Bowling Green	Frederick County
Town of Colonial Beach	Goochland County
Town of Haymarket	Hanover County
Town of Kilmarnock	King and Queen County
Town of Middletown	King George County
Town of Remington	King William County
Town of Strasburg	Lancaster County
Town of Timberville	Northumberland County
Town of Orange	Orange County
Town of Stevens City	Rappahannock County
Town of Tappahannock	Richmond County
CFFW Regional Adult Det. Center	Spotsylvania County
Northern Neck Regional Jail	Stafford County
Pamunkey Regional Jail	Warren County
Prince Wm./Manassas RADC	Westmoreland County
Rappahannock Regional Jail	Winchester/Front Royal Communications
Culpeper County E911	Mary Washington College
Frederick County Public Safety	Northern Virginia Community College
Hanover County Communications	Va. Marine Resources Commission
Orange County Communications	Aquia Harbor Police
Spotsylvania Co. Communications	Fort A.P. Hill
Warrenton-Fauquier JCC	King's Dominion Police Dept.

**Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy
Membership**

Arlington County Police Dept.	Washington/Metro Transit Authority
Arlington County Sheriff's Office	City of Manassas Park Police Dept.
City of Alexandria Police Dept.	City of Manassas Police Dept.
City of Alexandria Sheriff's Office	Fauquier County Sheriff's Office
City of Fairfax Police Department	George Mason University Police
City of Falls Church Police Dept.	Metro Washington Airports Authority Police
City of Falls Church Sheriff's Office	Middleburg Police Department
Loudoun County Sheriff's Office	Town of Leesburg Police Dept

Prince William County, Fairfax County and the Virginia Department of State Police maintain their own training academies for certification purposes.

FINANCIAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

a. Historical Expenditures and Impacts of NVCJA Buyout

The chart below lists the total annual expenditures from the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office budget related to membership in NVCJA for the last three fiscal years:

**Fauquier County Sheriff's Office
Annual Fiscal Year Expenditures
Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy**

Fiscal Year	Operating Costs	Debt Service
FY02	\$71,929	\$31,606
FY03	\$68,714	\$25,623
FY04	\$70,100	\$27,569

NVCJA's projected budget for FY2005 is **\$2,293,757**, of which **\$1,668,131** are operating costs and **\$625,626** is debt service. Fauquier County's total projected FY 2005 obligation, based on the ratio of Fauquier's population to the total academy population (.042401%) is **\$97,258**. This represents **\$70,731** in operating costs and **\$26,527** in debt service. Should Fauquier County decide to pay off its debt service and be permitted to withdraw from membership, the \$70,731 in operating costs would need to be absorbed by the remaining members.

**Effect of Absorption of Fauquier County's Operating Costs by Remaining NVCJA
Members in FY 2005**

JURISDICTION	NO.	PERCENT	OPER- ATIONAL	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL OBLIGATION
Alexandria City Police	291.0	0.127576	\$212,813	\$79,815	\$292,627
Alexandria City Sheriff	167.0	0.073214	\$122,130	\$45,804	\$167,934
Arlington County Police	362.0	0.158702	\$264,736	\$99,288	\$364,025
Arlington County Sheriff	216.0	0.094695	\$157,964	\$59,244	\$217,208
Fairfax City Police	63.0	0.027619	\$46,073	\$17,279	\$63,352
Falls Church City Police	32.0	0.014029	\$23,402	\$8,777	\$32,179
Falls Church City Sheriff	6.0	0.002630	\$4,388	\$1,646	\$6,034
Fauquier County Sheriff	0.0	0.000000	\$0	\$0	\$0
George Mason Univ. Police	50.0	0.021920	\$36,566	\$13,714	\$50,280
Leesburg Town Police	64.0	0.028058	\$46,804	\$17,554	\$64,358
Loudoun County Sheriff 320 + 13 (Middleburg Town Police - 5) (Purcellville Town Police - 9)	365.0	0.160018	\$266,930	\$100,111	\$367,041
Manassas City Police	80.0	0.035072	\$58,505	\$21,942	\$80,447
Manassas Park City Police	22.0	0.009645	\$16,089	\$6,034	\$22,123
Metro Airport Authority Police	190.0	0.083297	\$138,950	\$52,113	\$191,063
Metro Transit Police	373.0	0.163525	\$272,781	\$102,305	\$375,086
 TOTAL	 2281.0	 1	 \$1,668,131		 \$2,293,757

b. Fiscal Impact of Joining the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy

According to Mr. Ed Evers, Executive Director of RRCJA, the cost of membership in the Academy is based upon the number of sworn officers that each locality has on staff. The fee per staff member is \$275 per year. As of FY2004, the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office had 95 full-time sworn staff and 8 part-time sworn staff. The total cost of membership in RRCJA, based upon these figures, would be **\$28,325**. This figure includes debt service. The only additional expense of membership is the \$60 academy uniform fee for RRCJA rookies.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The other, non-fiscal requirements for buyout from NVCJA and membership in RRCJA are as follows:

- *Code of Virginia* Section 15.2-1747 (D) dictates that requests to the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, to withdraw from criminal justice academies, be made by October of any given year to become effective on June 30 of the following year. The Department of Criminal Justice Services has indicated, however, that it will occasionally make exception to this rule if the parties in question have satisfactorily worked out the fiscal implications among themselves.
- Section 15.2-1747(D) also requires the unanimous consent of all participating members of a criminal justice academy prior to the withdrawal of any member.
- In addition to the statutory requirements, the NVCJA Agreement prohibits withdrawal in the event of outstanding bonds. This agreement is *subject to amendment by the unanimous written consent of the governing bodies of all participating members*. There are currently 16 other participating members ranging in size from the Purcellville Town Police to the Metropolitan Transit Authority.
- A Board of Supervisors' Resolution to Withdraw from NVCJA and a Resolution to Petition for Membership in RRCJA are required.

SUMMARY

In the words of NVCJA Director, Truman Wilcox, "Fauquier County's withdrawal from NVCJA is possible, but will not be a timely process. It will certainly take some effort to convince the 16 other members to unanimously agree. The original Agreement was only finalized after more than eighteen months of debate."

In the event that the necessary approvals are obtained, the combined cost of paying off outstanding debt service to NVCJA and obtaining an annual membership in RRCJA for FY2005 is approximately **\$110,000**.

The Fauquier County Sheriff's Office budget request for academy-related expenses for FY2005 is **\$115,144**.